

FECN11 CWIS 041800

THIRTY DAY FORECAST FOR THE GREAT LAKES FOR FEBRUARY ISSUED
JOINTLY BY THE CANADIAN ICE SERVICE OF ENVIRONMENT CANADA AND THE
U.S. NATIONAL ICE CENTER OF THE UNITED STATES ON 04 FEBRUARY 2004.

Lake Superior

Generally very much below normal temperatures were recorded over the entire Lake Superior area during the last half of January. Ice expansion has continued during the past two weeks and has reached near normal extents along most of the shore. The exception was the area north of Whitefish Bay to Michipicoten Bay where the ice extended further westward than normal at the end of January.

Forecast ice conditions from February 4th to February 15th.

Near to slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the first week of February with near to slightly above normal during the second week. Ice along the northwestern coast will continue to spread southward. By mid-month, the western portion of the lake will be covered with ice as the ice along the southern and northwestern shore join up. Ice concentrations will be less near the middle portion of western Lake Superior. The ice along the south shore of the lake east of the Keweenaw Peninsula will continue to expand northward and will stretch out to about 10 to 20 miles from the shore.. Most of the ice will be medium and thin with some thick lake ice along the shore with thinner and looser ice near the ice edge. Most of Whitefish Bay is consolidated with thick and medium lake ice with no change anticipated by mid-month. Ice further north into Michipicoten Bay will continue to expand slowly westward beyond Michipicoten Island during the period. Some strips or narrow bands of thin and new lake ice will form along the shore north of Michipicoten Island to near Marathon during the first two weeks of February. The rest of the lake will remain open water.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th.

Near normal temperature are forecast for the third week of February, however below normal conditions are anticipated for the last week of February. The western half of the lake will remain ice covered by the end of February. Most of the area will be covered in medium and thin lake ice. Along the north shore between the entrance to Thunder Bay and just northeast of Duluth, some areas of looser new and thin lake ice will develop by the end of the month. East of the Keweenaw Peninsula along the south shore, the ice edge will be about 15 to 25 miles of the shore. Almost all of Whitefish Bay will be consolidated with thick lake ice with some patches of very thick lake ice. North of Whitefish Bay, the medium and thin with some thick lake ice will be about 30 to 40 miles of the shore into Michipicoten Bay. The rest of the lake will be open water.

Lake Huron and Georgian Bay

Much below normal temperatures was reported during the last half of January over Lake Huron. As a result the ice extent over the entire Huron Lake region was greater than normal at the end of January. Current ice conditions are what we would normally see around the middle of February.

Forecast ice conditions from February 4th to February 15th.

Near to slightly below normal temperatures are forecast for the first two weeks of February. The consolidated thick and medium lake ice in the North Channel will persist during the next two weeks. Ice along the southern shore of Manitoulin Island will spread slowly southward to reach about 10 to 15 miles off the shore. Mostly thin and medium lake ice will prevail by the middle of February. Most of the northwestern portion of the lake will be covered with thin and medium lake ice with consolidated medium lake ice persisting near the Straits of Mackinac by mid-month. The ice extent along the western shore is forecasted to expand slightly during the next two weeks. Ice will be mostly thin and new with some medium lake ice. The consolidated ice in Saginaw Bay will also prevail. The southern and eastern portion of the lake will be covered with thin and new lake ice with medium lake ice. Ice pressure could occasionally develop along the southern and eastern shore. Most of Georgian Bay will be covered with thin and medium lake ice in the northeastern portion of the bay while looser thin and new lake ice will cover the southwestern section. A narrow area of consolidated medium and thin lake ice will prevail along the northeastern shore at the middle of the month. The rest of the lake will be mostly open water except for a few strips of lake ice drifting into the area due to periodic offshore winds.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th.

Near to below normal temperatures are forecast for the last half of February. The consolidated ice in the North Channel will persist during the last half of February. No significant change to the extent of ice in the northern and northwestern portion of the lake during the period. Ice thickness will range from thin and medium with some thick lake ice. The Straits of Mackinac will remain consolidated. The extent of ice along the eastern shore will persist near its current position. The ice in the southern portion of the lake will expand somewhat northward but remain south of Saginaw Bay. The eastern shore will continue to have high concentrations of thick lake ice with some moderate to strong ice pressure developing with onshore winds. Most of Georgian Bay will be covered with medium and thin with some thick lake ice except for the southwestern portion of the bay where thin and medium lake ice will prevail.

Lake Erie and Lake St. Clair

Much below normal temperatures persisted over the area during the last two weeks of January. The entire Lake Erie became ice covered during the period. Ice conditions are near normal.

Forecast ice conditions from February 4th to February 15th.

Temperatures are forecast to be near to below normal for the first half of February. All of Lake St Clair has become consolidated medium lake ice. No change is anticipated over the next two weeks. Medium and thin lake ice will remain along the southern portion of Lake Erie while thin and new lake ice will prevail along the north shore. Areas along the south shore could see the ice thicken to thick lake ice by the middle of the month. The consolidated medium lake ice in eastern Lake Erie will persist during the period. Occasional ice pressure will develop in Lake Erie.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th.

Near to below normal temperatures are forecast for the last two week of February. The consolidated ice in Lake St Clair will show signs of break-up during the last two weeks of February. Looser ice conditions will develop along the western shore of the Western Basin as well as along the north shore of Lake Erie. Ice conditions in eastern Lake Erie could become more difficult as the winds will become more westerly. Some areas of ridging and ice pressure could develop.

Lake Ontario

Much below normal temperatures was recorded during the second half of January over the entire Lake Ontario region. The ice extent was greater than normal for this time of year.

Forecast ice conditions from February 4th to February 15th.

Temperatures will be near to slightly below normal during the first half of February. Ice in northeastern Lake Ontario will persist during the next two weeks. Mostly medium and thin lake ice will be located along the shore with new and thin ice further off-shore. Ice along the southern shore of Prince Edward County will be mostly loose thin and new lake ice. Some ice destruction will occur with low pressure systems passing near the area. Elsewhere along the Lake Ontario shore, some narrow patches of thin and new lake ice will persist especially along the southern shore of the lake. The rest of the lake will remain open water to ice free.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th.

Near to below normal temperatures are forecast for the last half of February. The area of ice in northeastern Lake Ontario will shrink somewhat but will remain mostly medium and thin lake ice. The area of ice south of Prince Edward County will decrease in area and will be located near the shore. Elsewhere along the shoreline of Lake Ontario, area of thin and new lake will slowly narrow during the period. The rest of the lake will remain open water to ice free.

Lake Michigan

Much below normal temperatures prevailed over the entire Lake Michigan area during the latter part of January. Ice extents are slightly greater than normal especially along the eastern and western shore.

Forecast ice conditions from February 4th to February 15th.

Temperatures are forecast to be near to below normal during the first two weeks of February. The consolidated medium lake ice in Green Bay will persist until the middle of February. Bands of thin and new lake ice along the western and eastern shore will persist during the next two weeks with some patches of medium lake ice developing during the period. Along the southern portion of the lake, close pack thin and medium lake ice will remain with some thick lake ice developing in the area. The ice concentration in Grand Traverse Bay will increase during the next two weeks with mostly

thin and new lake ice and link up with the ice in the northeastern portion of the lake. The large area of consolidated ice from the Straits of Mackinac eastward to Beaver Island and northward along the coast will prevail to the middle of February. The area of medium and thin lake ice south and west of the consolidated ice will expand slowly southwestward and lie northeast of a line located about 5 to 10 miles southwest of Beaver Island by mid-month. The rest of the lake will remain mostly open water.

Forecast ice conditions from February 16th to February 29th.

Near to below normal temperatures will continue through to the end of the month. The consolidated thick and medium lake ice in northeastern Green Bay will begin to break-up during the second half of February. The Little and Big Bay de Noc will remain consolidated as well as most of the rest of Green Bay. The bands of thin and medium lake ice along the eastern and western shore of Lake Michigan will persist during the last half of February. Ice in the southern portion of the lake will also become deteriorated however some patches of medium and thin lake ice will still persist by the end of the month. Ice in Grand Traverse Bay will become consolidated by end of the month. No significant change in ice extent in the northern portion of the lake near Beaver Island however ice concentration along the ice edge will decrease during the period. The consolidated ice in and west of the Straits of Mackinac will prevail until the end of the month.

Figure 1: Ice forecast, Western Great Lakes – 15 February, 2004.

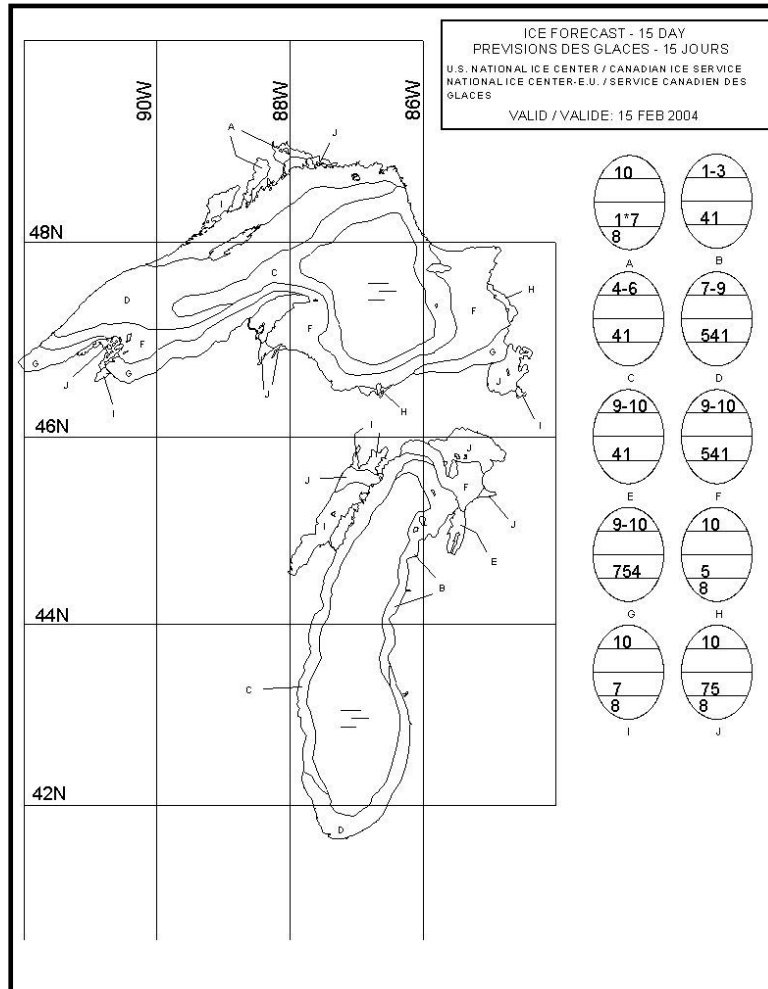


Figure 2: Ice Forecast, Western Great Lakes– 1 March, 2004.

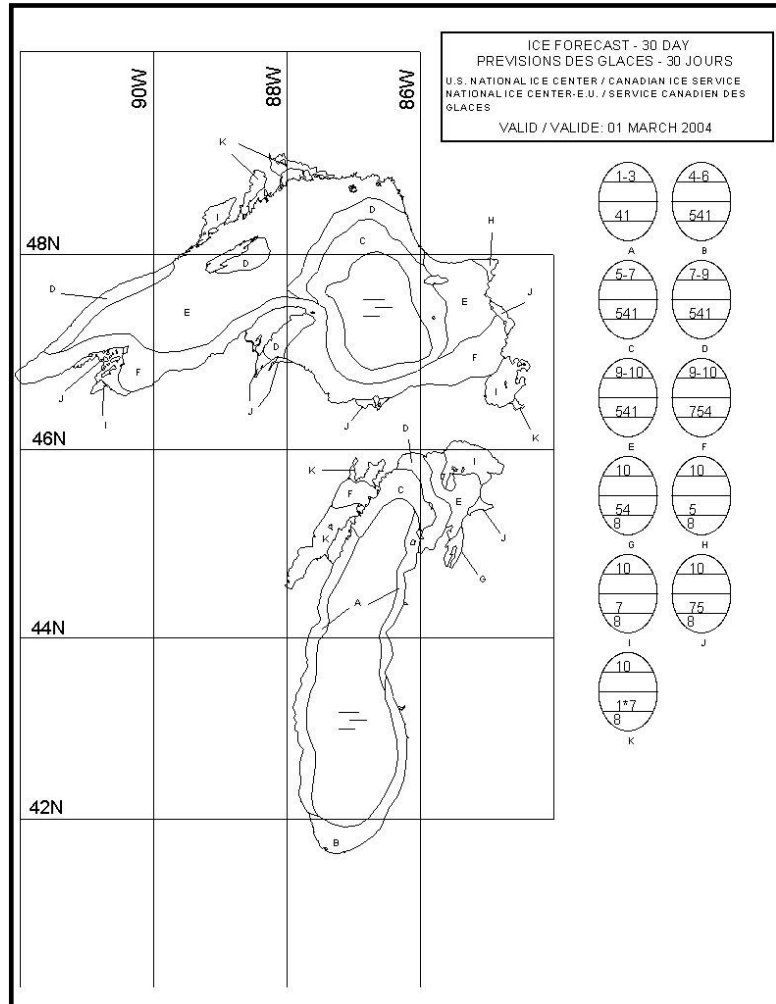


Figure 3: Ice Forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 15 February, 2004.

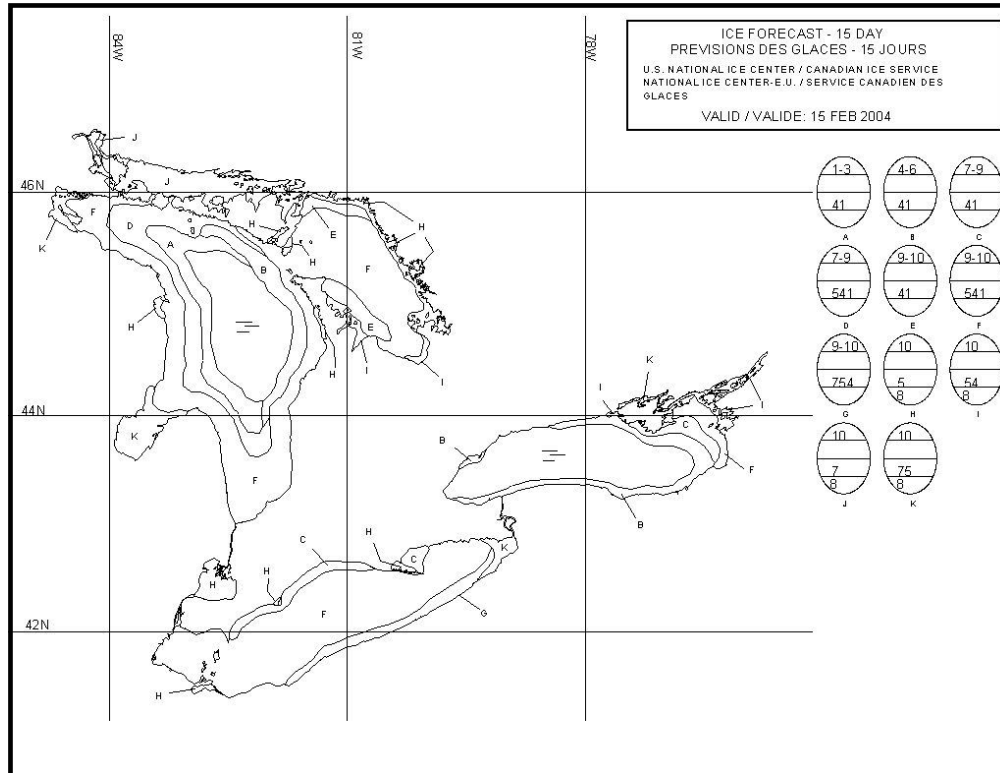
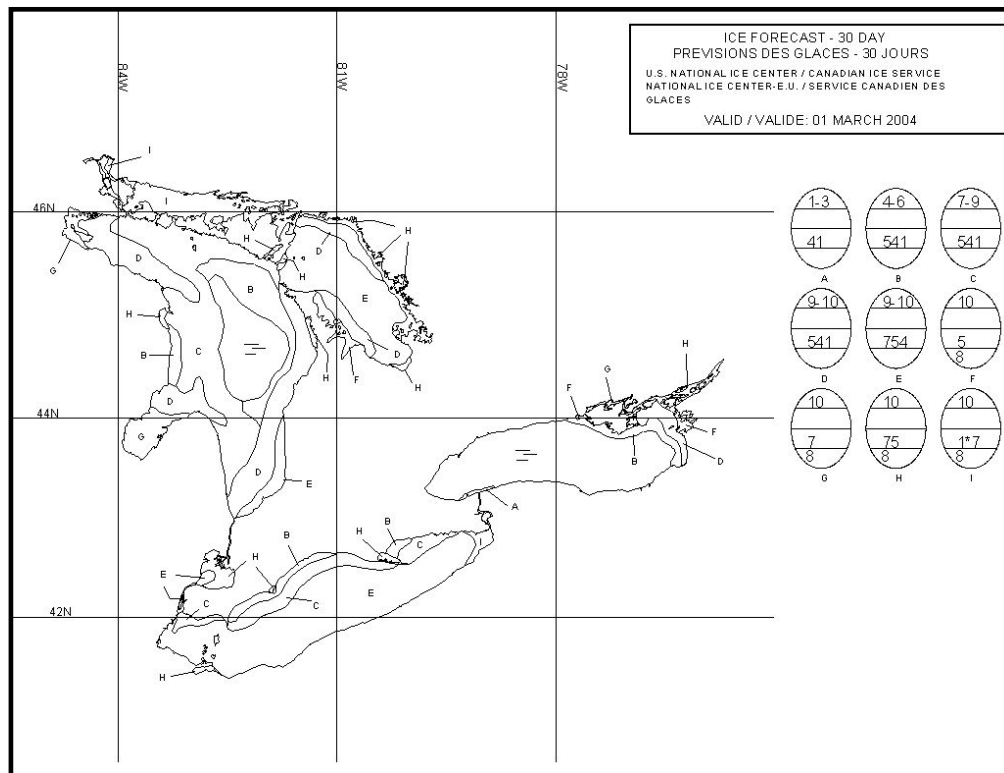


Figure 4: Ice Forecast, Eastern Great Lakes – 1 March, 2004.



THE NEXT 30 DAY FORECAST WILL BE ISSUED ON 18 FEBRUARY 2004.
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